

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6916

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7976

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PK, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 1035

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY ISLAMABAD CONFIRMS YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 25 PAKISTANI PILOTS PRESENTLY IN LIBYA. WE UNDERSTAND IT IS BASICALLY A TRAINING MISSION WHICH PROBABLY INCLUDES TRAINING IN ADVANCED AIR COMBAT MANUEVERS ON LIBYA'S MIRAGES.

2. QUESTION OF MISSION OF PAK PILOTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES (PAK PILOT TEAMS ALSO IN SYRIA AND GULF STATES) HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN PAST WITH HIGHER RANKS IN PAKISTAN AIR FORCE (PAF). PAF HAS TOLD US ITS OFFICERS IN TRAINING MISSIONS HAVE STRICT ORDERS NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES WHATSOEVER. THEIR MISSION IS STRICTLY TRAINING. PAF WELL AWARE OF POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT MAY WELL ENSUE IF ITS PILOTS, HELPING TRAIN A FOREIGN AIR FORCE, BECOME INVOLVED IN MILITARY DISPUTE AND WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO SEE THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN.

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3. AN AIR VICE MARSHAL IN PAF HAS TOLD US THAT LIBYANS HAVE, IN THE PAST, DIRECTLY ASKED PAF PILOTS TO AGREE TO ENGAGE IN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH LIBYAN AIR FORCE. REQUESTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN REFERRED TO ISLAMABAD WHICH HAS REFUSED ALL SUCH APPROACHES. OUR OWN ASSESSMENT IS THAT PAF WILL CONTINUE TO AVOID ANY OPERATIONAL ROLE IN LIBYAN AIR FORCE. GOP FULLY REALIZES IT IS NOT IN ITS INTEREST TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MILITARY DISPUTES, PARTICULARLY INTER-ARAB ONES. BYROADE

SECRET

NNN

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